GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:233
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
PRIVATE SECTOR IN DEFENCE PRODUCTION
Munshiram Shri

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of factories manufacturing arms, ammunition, missiles etc. for use by the Armed Forces;

(b) whether the quality of arms, ammunition, etc. manufactured by the Ordnance Factories is not up to the mark and their manufacturing cost is very high;

(c) if so, the reasons for opening up Defence production to Private Sector; and

(d) whether handing over Defence production to private companies would not pose any danger to the security of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) Arms, Ammunition etc are being manufactured in 17 Ordnance Factories (OFs) and missiles in Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL), Hyderabad for the Armed Forces.

(b) The quality of arms, ammunition produced in Ordnance Factories is up to the mark and the manufacturing cost is reasonable.

(c) The Defence production was opened to Private Sector to harness capabilities of Private Sector for achieving greater self-reliance.

(d) The security concerns have been addressed by incorporating suitable provisions in the guidelines for licensing production of Defence items in Private Sector.